

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

MAB

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B26 EAST-WEST GERMAN AFFAIRS  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT (13 - 26 February 1968)

DATE 2005

Status of Prisoner Release and Family Reunification Program

EGN-3603 (TDCSDB-315/00417-68) DOI: 31 January 1968 [ ]

The prisoners for whom payment was made under the 1967 ransom agreement have all been returned, but 840 persons of the 1040 covered by the 1967 family reunification agreement have not been given permission to leave East Germany. Goods in the full amount agreed to have been delivered to East Germany. The East Germans have indicated that they are willing to refund the money for those persons not permitted to leave East Germany. According to Vogel, no more persons covered by the 1967 family reunification agreement will be permitted to leave East Germany nor will there be any further exchanges or reunions of any kind until Heinz Felfe is returned to the East. Vogel also told Bishop Kunst that in view of the difficulties arising from the East German request for Felfe's release, Kunst's conversation partners in East Berlin would not be able to receive him as they have in the past.

Continued Discussion regarding Prisoner Exchanges and Family Reunions

EGN-3631 (CSDB-312/00480-68) DOI: 19 February [ ] and [ ]

On 19 February, Wolfgang Vogel came to Bonn for discussions with All-German Affairs Minister Herbert Wehner and Justice Minister Gustav Heinemann concerning possible further progress in implementing the interrupted 1967 East-West German agreement on reunion of separated families. Vogel's appointment with Wehner was arranged by a mutual friend, a Swedish church official in Berlin; the appointment with Heinemann was arranged by Bishop Kurt Scharf without prior clearance with Bishop Kunst. In a conversation with Kunst after he had met with Wehner and Heinemann, Vogel reiterated his demand for Felfe's release. In contrast to his previous position, Kunst indicated that he might actually be willing to discuss Felfe's release after implementation of the 1967 program, or order perhaps to have a new program for 1968.

East-West German Prisoner Exchanges

OGA-741 (CSDB-312/00445-68) DOI: December 1967-22 January 1968 [ ]

Negotiations for a new round of prisoner exchanges are at a standstill, supposedly because the East Germans demand that Heinz Felfe be released. Settlement of family reunion cases is behind schedule and is proceeding at a very slow rate. The promised return of children to parents in West Germany has not transpired, however, apparently because the East Germans are now attempting for the first time to obtain a form of ransom payment for them.

East German Initiatives in International Trade (ITF)

EGS-23984 (TDCS 314/02497-68) DOI: Late 1967-30 January 1968 [ ]

FFIFF 201